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#### ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

A POSTAL REFORM.

The postoffice department has secured from the su preme court a reform which it has long sought in vain from congress. The decision that the department is not obliged to handle books published serially as see ond class matter is in harmony with justice and common sense. The custom which was allowed to grow up of burdening the mails with books which were in no sense periodicals, except as pieces of cloth are tion impossible. periodicals when they come from the loom at regular intervals, was an imposition on the taxpayers.

The framers of the law never intended to open the sought to have periodicals more strictly defined by the case with an unusual character. congress, but without success, and finally determined not to let itself be controlled by bad customs which of the defendant himself. While a sub-committee it had been led into, but to administer the law accord- had him under personal examination in Florida, he ing to its pristine meaning. Accordingly, it refused was obviously wholly indifferent to the proceedings. to transmit at second class rates matter which was He did make a general denial, but appeared to take not periodical in the ordinary sense, and not to ac- no special pains to acquit himself of the charges or cept as periodicals publications which were obviously to prevent an adverse report through the interposiput in that guise merely to secure cheap transporta- tion of friendly influence-and he is not without tion. Now the supreme court has sustained that posi- these. This provokes a suspicion that he rather tion.

conveniences. Therefore, the present decision restricting them to legitimate periodicals gives promises have eight months in which to prepare his defense. of more extended rural delivery, of one cent letter postage at an earlier date, and possibly of a parcels with which to confound the Floridians whom he repost system. If the publishers who find themselves gards as his personal persecutors? Has he assumed deprived of the second class rate for their books indifference, where his character, his professional would devote themselves to devising and pushing a rates for many parcels are unreasonably high, particularly for short distances. Another oppressive restriction on commerce is the regulation by which small packages, even newspaper bundles, which come of lacking vindictiveness. by mail from abroad are here turned over to express companies for domestic delivery at a cost to the recipient often many times what a parcel is worth. By confining the postal service to legitimate business for each class of matter, the department's revenues can be conserved and improvements made of vast will come up in the assembly for consideration tomorgeneral benefit, in line wit hthe most advanced practice of Europe.

## JAPAN'S NAVAL COMMANDER.

Admiralo Togo is the naval hero of the new century, says the Ledger. He is being called the "Nelson of Japan." It is nearly one hundred years since Admiral Horatio Nelson won his memorable victory at Trafalgar over the combined fleets of France and Spain. There were 33 ships under Nelson's command in the engagement against 40 of the allies, in its construction no guarantee against fraud. On whose guns were decidedly heavier. Nelson was the contrary there is too great an opportunity for mortally wounded in the battle, but lived to see half it, since it is recorded that one voter, down in Conof the enemy's fleet destroyed and the day won. His necticut, either by design or through ignorance, signal, "England expects every man to do his duty," was magnificently obeyed. The battle of Trafalgar commissioner is quoted as saying there is nothing, and Nelson's death occurred October 21, 1805.

Admiral Togo fired the first shot at the battle of the with equanimity. The fact that both great political Yalu, during the war with China in 1894. He is a parties are opposed to the use of the machine as at man of initiative and of indomitable perseverance. present developed is significant. The race today does He was selected to take command of the Japanese a great deal of its work by machinery, but there is fleet in the present war, because those qualities were evidently a limit. well known and he enjoyed the confidence and held the admiration of the elder statesmen of Japan. He was promoted to the rank of vice admiral for valor Davy Jones country, but it generally takes several at the battle of the Yalu. It has been reported that derricks to get her back into the sunlight.

at Port Arthur, with shells bursting all around him, he was the coolest man on the deck of his flagship.

Admiral Togo is a native of Kumamoto, an interior town of some 30,00 inhabitants, about 100 miles south of Nagasaki. Thirty-seven years ago, when Togo was a lad of 17, the feudal lord of the town declared allegiance to the mikado, and Togo offered his services to the emperor. As soon as the mikado determined to have a modern navy, Togo applied for a edy position and was sent to England to receive the proper education and training. He became a commander and had Japanese training ships under his command before the outbreak of the war with China. Many of the cadets who were under him then are prominent naval officers now. Admiral Togo has had as much as anyone to do with the wonderful improvement in the Japanese navy, and especially in the discipline and efficiency of the naval forces,

#### THE SWAYNE IMPEACHMENT.

Wholly apart from the justice or the injustice of the charges against him and without regard to his character in general, the Commercial has recently expressed the opinion that the appointment of Judge Charles Swayne to a place on the federal bench in Florida was a mistake. Our contention was that his temperament at the outset was a serious obstacle to remedy cured it up completely and l his success there, and that another sort of man appointed in 1889 would have made the present situa-

On the strength of a majority report from the house committee on the judicary Judge Swayne will pany, Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the be called upon to defend himself in impeachment door to an express business at second class postage proceedings before the United States senate next Derates, says the Tribune. The publishers only grad-cember. It is not a little strange that this case atually dicovered the possibilitie open to them by tracted practically no attention outside of Florida liberal construction of the law, and, going step by and provoked only the most limited press comment step in claiming privileges for publications less and while it was under committee investigation in the less resembling the newspaper or true magazine, they house. Now, however, that it has taken the shape were able finally to get the department to transit of the formal impeachment of a federal judge before their wares as of right, without, perhaps, perceiving the senate sitting as a court, its rather extraordinary for a long time how much it was being imposed upon. character is drawing it under general discussion. A The abuse went so far that publishers issued sets minority report signed by six republican committeeof standard works, a volume a month or a volume men exonerates Judge Swayne from the charge, but a quarter, and asked that they be transmitted as its appearance was tardy and its preparation aparperiodicals at the newspaper rate. The department ently an afterthought-a circumstance that invests

Another peculiarity attaching to it is the attitude courted formal impeachment—that he preferred to The second class mail is one of the heaviest ex- stand trial before the senate to accepting vindication penses of the department. It does not nearly pay for by what might be called a "whitewash" in the house; itself. The cost is in the public interest, making pos- in other words, could get his defense before the counsible as it does the wide dissemination of intelligence. try in stronger form through impeachment proceed-Any abuse of the privileges of second class rates, ings, would be protected rigidly in all his rights as however, prevents the introduction of other postal before a judge and a jury and could "get at" his enemies with greater force and effect. He will now

Has Judge Swayne got something up his sleeve honor and his integrity as a jurist are at stake, only reasonable scheme for a parcels post they might do to make his final vindication the more sweeping and themselves and the country some good. Express triumphant and the rout of his enemies the more complete?

> As an ordinary "proposition" Judge Swayne is a good deal of an iceberg, but nobody ever accused him

One voting machine bill has been killed at Albany, but the worst one remains-the O'Neill bill, which is mandatory. The defunct bill was known as the Davis bill, and was permissive merely. The other row, but, fortunately, there is little chance of its getting through the senate, even though it passes the lower house, as it would require an emergency message from the governor to secure its passage before the legislature adjourns, and Mr. Odell is hardly likely to make an emergency of such a matter. There would, indeed, be no excuse for such a course. While it may come to pass that voting machines will be used at our public elections, the proper time for that consummation has evidently not yet arrived. The best of the machines is still imperfect, and there is 'punched up' 100 votes, and a republican election that he can see, to prevent a ma nfrom voting 9999 As captain of the protected cruiser Naniwa, Vice times. This is a possibility not to be contemplated

It is easy to get a submarine boat down into the

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#### Sorry for the Lion.

Among the children attending Western Addition kintergarten is little Alice, the well known daughter of local newspaper man. A few days ago a visitor exhibited to the little folks some large colored pictures de picting the sufferings of the early Christians. One Illustration showed a lion's den, in which the animals were industrially worrying Christian men and maids. As the children watched the picture the visitor told a story appropriate to the illustration. None showed more eager interest than did little Alice. She listened attentively. Her alert glance moved from speaker to picture as her ears drank in the tale of the cruelty of Nero,

The child's interest attracted the visitor and soon he found himself addressing little Alice to the exclusion of all others. She, at least, understood and appreciated the story.

There was a pause in the tale. Up went little Alice's hand:

"Please, teacher,"

"What is it, Alice?" "Please, teacher, there's one poor

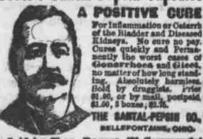
## Zebra Tandems.

A few devotees of the whimsical and the eccentric are talking of breaking and training zebras for family pleas ure driving in Hyde park, London Friends of the zebras say they can in drawing smart wagons and will af ford a refreshing novelty of contrasts Quaggas are also well thought of. It's a great pity that giraffes are now so rare and hard to get. How agreeable a spectacle o four-in-hand team of spotted skyscrapers, imported from Africa, would affiford in Rotten row! Two enormous ostriches, wearing superb plumes of their own, would also doubtless gratify the spectators if hitched to a big park phaeton.

## A THOUGHTFUL MAN.

M. M. Austin, of Winchester, Ind., knew what to do in the hour of need. His wife had such an unusual case of stomach and liver trouble, physicians could not help her. He thought of and tried Dr. King's New Life Pills and she got relief at once and was finally cured. Only 25c at Charles Rogers' drug store.





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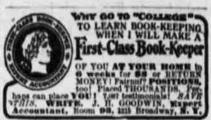
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7:45 a m | For Portland and 11:30 a m 6:10 p m | Way Points | 10:30 p m

SEASIDE DIVISION

68:15 a m Astoria for Waren-11:35 a m ton, Flavel Fort 5:50 p m Stevens, Hammond 10:45 a m and Seaside

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